(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). The small Family norm has been included as one of the topics of Population Education integrated in the school syllabi and the materials in use in Adult Education Programmes. In addition, training materials under the Adult Education Programme includesmessages on responsible parent–hood, right age of marriage, population growth and environment, population and development. Health related courses have been provided in the Vocational Stream at the Higher Secondary stage.

Contraceptive Pill

4083. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a law–does contraceptive pill for use by women conforming to international standards has recently been launched under the Contraceptive Social Marketing Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the side effects, if any; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for its popularisation in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Low dose contraceptive pills for women, containing 0.30mg of di–norgestrel and 0.03 mg of Ethinyl oestradiol per tablet, have been introduced in the contraceptive Social Marketing Programme under National Family Welfare Programme. These pills are available under brand names Mala–D, ECROZ & PEARL. While Mala–D is sold throughout the country by selected pharmaceutical Marketing companies at a consumer price of Rs. 2/- per cycle, other brands are sold by selected Voluntary Organisations in some States at prices fixed by the concerned Voluntary Organisations.

Some of the common side effects are nausea, vomitting, giddiness breast tenderness, back pain, headache, intramenstrual spotting and breakthrough bleeding. Some of these symptoms will disappear with the continued use of the pills.

(c) In addition to advertising Mala–D in Mass Media through out the country, the associated marketing companies and Voluntary Organisations are encouraged to increase the sales in the country including the rural areas.

Besides, low dose oral contraceptive pills are also available under free distribution scheme under the brand name Mala–N which are distributed through governmental machinery i.e. Family Welfare Centres/ Sub–entres/Workers and some non–governmental/Voluntary Organisations in the urban as well as rural areas.

Augmentation of Lumding–Badarpur Section

4084. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dihaku area on the Lumding–Badarpur section is going downward (sinking);

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any plan to strengthen the entire railway tracks from Lumding to Badarpur and Silchar; and